

# The Rising Star

Disney-Bell Post 66 Newsletter

November 1, 2002



## Busy Fall Schedule at Post 66!

It seems like every November the Post really begins to shake with all sorts of events and happenings for absolutely everyone in the family. To begin with, the Veterans Administration Mobile Clinic will be returning after several months parked at the VA lot. This visit will be for flu shots only but it will still be good to see it again. It will be here on Thursday, November 14 from 9:00 until 2:30. Don't be sick this year. Stop in for a FREE shot and spend a healthy, holiday season for 2002-2003. You must already be registered with the VA or bring a copy of your DD-214 (discharge papers) to receive your shot.

On every Sunday, we host turkey shoots in support of our veterans' programs. Don't shoot? No problem! You can purchase a scatter at the bar for various meats and still come up on Sunday mornings to enjoy a great breakfast (and lunch, too) prepared by the Auxiliary.

Next, Friday night dinners are back and going great. The Honor Guard is hosting steaks on the first Friday, the Auxiliary is planning roast pork on the second, The Post (under the guidance of Laura Martin with proceeds helping the Honor Guard in their annual competition) hosts the third Friday (last month crab legs, this month fresh stuffed chicken breast), and the SAL completes the schedule with something that is always a surprise. Remember that we are always eating dinner on Friday night. You are asked to call in your reservation no later than the Wednesday before so we know how much we need to purchase. Also, if you make a reservation, please be responsible for attending. We understand emergencies do happen, but all too often people are just "no shows" which is expensive.

Don't want a fancy meal? No problem. Every second Saturday is shrimp nite. For the low price of \$6.50, you get a baker's dozen (that's 13 for all you non-Coasties) and a glass of wine or beer. All proceeds benefit the Honor Guard in raising money for their annual national competition (this year, St. Louis). No reservations are required for this one.

Our annual Early Bird Dinner is set for Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> with a cocktail hour at 5:00 p.m. and dinner at six. You know by now that you need to have your 2003 dues paid by November 11<sup>th</sup> to join in the fun. Don't get shut out.

Veterans Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>, is a very special day for us. This year, Disney-Bell Post 66 is the host veterans' service organization for the annual ceremonies conducted at Bowie Veterans Park. Please make every effort to attend this traditional ceremony, as well as the reception at the Post immediately following the event. Every month, the Post regular membership meets on the fourth Wednesday, the Auxiliary on the third Wednesday, and the SAL on the second Monday. All meetings start at 7:30 p.m.. Members of these organizations are always welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings.

Well, November's calendar is pretty full and it looks like December's will be too. Some are fun things, some are work things but there is a great deal to do. Later in this newsletter, you will be given an opportunity to share in even more things going on. I hope to see many of you at some of the things we are doing.

J. D. Larson  
Commander

### September Friday Night Dinner Menu

November 1	Steak
November 8	Turkey
September 15	Fresh Stuffed Chicken
November 22	TBA

All meals are served 6:30 to 8:00 pm  
Reservations should be made by calling the Post  
no later than the Wednesday before.

## First Vice Commander's Report

In order to qualify as a 2003 Early Bird your dues must be received by November 12, 2002. If you are one of those who wait until the last minute, consider joining us at the Bowie Veterans Park for Veterans Day ceremonies and then come to the Post for the reception following. Our Post is the host of this year's Veteran's Day ceremonies and a huge turnout of blue hats will add to the already high respect our post receives in the Bowie community and among other veterans service organizations. When you come for the free reception, bring along your check or cash to pay your 2003 dues. I understand the Auxiliary is planning a terrific reception.

Veterans Day is also an excellent opportunity to bring a prospective member to the ceremonies and to the Post to join the American Legion. The ceremony is always moving and each year grows in attendance. It has always impressed me to see the number of young people who participate and appear to be very involved in this patriotic event.

Besides qualifying for Early Bird, and being eligible to attend the free Early Bird Dinner on November 16, 2002, if you haven't paid your dues by December 31, 2002 you will lose eligibility to participate in Post activities. Most of us have a lot on our minds these days and unless we act when something is on our minds, it can get put off indefinitely. Please don't wait until the last minute to renew. Delay causes several problems for us. First, my blood pressure shoots up. Second, we have to send you another reminder letter. I know if you haven't paid by now, you have received a couple of letters from National already. Help us save the manpower and postage and mail or bring your check to the Post before doing so gets put on the back burner.

Clif Morvant  
1st Vice Commander

## Veteran's Day Ceremony

Hostilities in World War I, which began in late July 1914, were suspended at eleven o'clock in the morning of Monday, November 11, 1918, after the signing of the Armistice by the contending powers.

On November 11, 1919, the first Armistice anniversary, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed this day as Armistice Day with the following words: "To us

in America the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory."

On June 1, 1954, President Eisenhower signed Public Law 380 which changed Armistice Day to Veterans Day in honor of the veterans of all wars. Today, November 11, once a great patriotic holiday, is often ignored and forgotten. Many corporations do not include Veterans Day as a part of their holiday schedule.



Here in Bowie, thanks to our veterans service organizations, Veterans Day is observed as a day of respect commemorating the service of veterans of all wars. The American Legion, Disney-Bell Post 66; the Disabled American Veterans, Omaha Beach Chapter 7; the

Marine Corps League, Free State Detachment and Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S., Bowie Memorial Post 8065 have united together each year at 11:00 a.m., November 11 to conduct Veterans Day services. They are joined by their fellow veterans of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, 7<sup>th</sup> Star and Seventh Stripe Chapter 2222 along with civic, fraternal and patriotic organizations to lay wreaths and pay respect to the memory of departed comrades.

This year Disney-Bell Post 66 of the American Legion will be the host veterans service organization. The ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m., Monday, November 11, 2002 at Bowie Veterans Park, Route 564, Lanham-Severn Road. A reception will follow at our Post home. All Legion, Auxiliary, Squadron members and their spouses and guests are requested to be present for Veterans Day ceremonies.

I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts.

--Will Rogers



## Unit 66 Report

The Autumn leaves are falling and as we move our daily activities inside the ladies of Unit 66 roll up their sleeves and take on a most challenging schedule.

We have started our Turkey Shoot season which means that the ladies are serving breakfast and lunch every Sunday from 8:AM until the shoots are over. You do not have to be a participant in the shoots to come and enjoy a delicious homemade breakfast at a reasonable price. We also run scatter shots during the shoots . . . a good way to pick up a few extra bucks and support a good cause.

The Department Fall Conference will be a memory by the time you receive this newsletter, but I will be sure to inform you of the important topics pertaining to the members and their families. We have a delegation attending and we as a group should be able to bring back some interesting details.

The Children's Halloween Party will be November 2, 2002 between the hours of 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. at the Post Home. There will be a costume contest, games and refreshments for the children. If you and your children plan to attend, please call the Post at (301) 464-9814 and sign up.

Our November 8<sup>th</sup> Friday night dinner will be a real turkey dinner with all of the trimmings, including mashed potatoes, stuffing, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie. Please try to sign up before Tuesday, November 5, 2002 so that we will know how many turkeys to fix. December 13<sup>th</sup> will be the next Friday night dinner and the menu will be ham and scalloped potatoes. Please sign up for some good homemade food and fellowship with Legion family members.

November 11<sup>th</sup> is the Veterans Day service at the Veterans' Park starting at 11:00 a.m.. Since the events of September 11, 2001 and those that have followed, we should take the time to honor those that gave their all to give us the freedom that we enjoy and give our thanks to those who continue to serve and protect our country every day.

As Thanksgiving quickly approaches let us all take the time to give thanks for everything that God has so graciously given us and think of others in need. We will be conducting a food drive to stock the Bowie Food Bank to provide those in need with the supplies to help them through their time of want. Our Community Service Chairman Cindy Morvant will be placing boxes in the Post Home to collect nonperishable food items and paper supplies. Please reach into your heart and bring a donation to the Post for this very worthwhile cause.

December will be a busy month for everybody with holiday parties and shopping. The Ladies of the Auxiliary will be no different. I will have more details in the next newsletter concerning our activities for the holidays so look at my article next month to see if there is anything that you would like to participate in.

Juanita L. Thompson  
Unit President

## Adjutant's Call

I would like to share with you excerpts from a poem that was on the program when I had the honor of laying a wreath at the Vietnam Memorial in memory of the 221 members of the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division "The Golden Brigade" who were Killed in Action and the two who are still Missing In Action, and who are in our memory "Forever Young". While it is written in male generic terms, it applies to all of America's Service Men and Women and befitting of Veterans' Day.

"He was getting old and paunchy  
And his hair was falling fast,  
And he sat around the Legion,  
Telling stories of his past.

Of a war that he had once fought in  
and the deeds that he had once done,  
In his exploits with his buddies;  
They were heroes all, every one.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors  
His tales became a joke,  
All his buddies listened quietly  
For they knew of what he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,  
For the Old Soldier has passed away,  
And the world's a little poorer  
For a Soldier died today.

He was just a common Soldier,  
And his ranks are growing thin,  
But his presence should remind us  
We may need his like again.

For when countries are in conflict,  
We find the Soldier's part  
Is to clean up the troubles  
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor  
While he's here to hear the praise,  
Then at least let's give him homage  
At the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline  
In the paper that might say:  
"Our Country is in mourning,  
A Soldier died Today." "

God Bless You Buddies

James L. Pritchett, Jr.  
Adjutant

### Chaplain's Corner

**The time for prayers is now. With the shootings that are taking place in our communities we have to take time for a prayer. Also, with the Holidays fast approaching, find out if the Post or Auxiliary will have a basket out for canned goods for families in need. Hope to see everyone at the Veterans Day Ceremony that we are in charge of this year. It is always very moving and special.**

**As always if you need to contact me I can be reached at 301-262-0257 or on line at rweik53164@aol.com or leave a message at the Post.**

**Blessings to all  
Chaplain Toni King**



## Squadron 66 Report

**H**ello again. I would like to start by saying that the Car Show was a big success. I would like to thank everybody that helped out. Also, our golf team played well and all donations went to a good cause. We are having our Christmas train set raffled off for the holiday season. You can see the train and purchase tickets at the Legion.

At the last meeting, we began discussing our annual Bull and Oyster Roast coming in March. I know it is early but keep it in mind. Also, a reminder to pay your 2003 dues in time to participate in the early bird dinner on November 16. Thanks.

Joe Clark  
Commander

No man's life, liberty, or property are safe  
while the legislature is in session.

--Mark Twain (1866)

## Oral Histories Wanted

**A**ARP has joined forces with the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress as a major sponsor of the Veterans History Project. Created by Congress, the project aims to collect and preserve a permanent record of the experiences of Americans in wartime.

**How you can help:** Both veterans and civilians alike are urged to take part. It's a great opportunity to get members of different generations talking to one another. Have your kids interview you or your parents. Talk to your friends and neighbors. The value of recording oral histories of WWI, WWII, the Korean Vietnam and

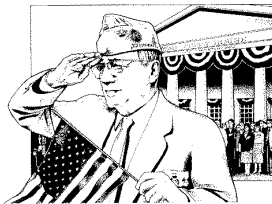
Persian Gulf Wars cannot be underestimated. Everyone who has fought in or lived through these historical events has a story to tell. Paul Trimmer, a Vietnam veteran from Macomb, Illinois, recorded an oral history for a college project of his friend's son. His story is now part of the Veterans History Project's growing collection. "So much history has been lost," Trimmer says. "A hundred years from now, if there are any questions, they can go back and see how it was."



**What else is needed:** Letters, diaries, photographs, home movies, maps and other documents are crucial to building a comprehensive archive. To get more information on how to record an oral history, order an

interviewers instruction kit or learn other ways you can participate to [www.loc.gov/folklife/vets](http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets) or call 888-371-5848.

## Veterans Memorial Groundbreaking



The long awaited groundbreaking for the Veterans Memorial at Camden Yards has been set for 2:00 pm on November 11, 2002. The memorial will echo the shape of and include the words from the original Memorial Stadium.

The monument was designed by People Architecture and the Maryland Stadium Authority to utilize the message (Time will not dim the glory of their deeds) from the facade of Memorial Stadium on a wall enclosing an oval with three flag poles at the south elevation. As part of the design a niche will house the urn containing soil from every military cemetery containing American personnel throughout the world. The memorial will be located between the two stadiums and to the south of Camden yards. Beneath the urn will be a plaque with the

dedication: *"The citizens of the State of Maryland dedicate this memorial to all veterans who so valiantly fought and served in our Nation's battles with special gratitude to those who made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve equality and freedom throughout the World."* Another plaque will refer to the history behind Memorial Stadium and this continuing memorial.

### Pool Tournament Scheduled

Members of Post 66 are invited to register for an 8-ball tournament on Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Play will begin at 7:30 pm that evening. Details will be provided at the meeting.

## VA Mobile Clinic Visits

The VA Medical Center Mobile Health Clinic returns to Post 66 on Thursday, November 14, 2002 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.. The clinic will be providing fly shots only. To participate, you must either be currently enrolled with the Veterans Administration (carry the red, white and blue photo card) or bring a copy of your DD-214 (discharge papers). Shots are provided free to all veterans (sorry, no family members). For any questions, contact the Service Committee Chairman, Eddie Thompson, at (301) 262-2263.





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Inside this Issue: Fall Activities Keeping Post Busy, VA Van Returns, Veterans Day Ceremony, Organizational Reports, Oral Histories Wanted, Events Calender and More!

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**POST OFFICERS**

Commander: J. D. Larson, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander: Clif Morvant, 2nd Vice Commander: Les Wicklein, Adjutant: Jim Pritchett, Judge Advocate: Charlie Milstead, Service Officer: Vacant, Finance Officer: Dick Lanham, Historian: Myron James, Chaplain: Toni King, Sergeant-at-Arms: Nick Muller.  
Executive Committee: Jr. Martin, Tom Murphy, A. H. Sprehe, Eddie Thompson and Paul Thompson.



**VETERANS DAY CEREMONY**  
**MONDAY**  
**NOVEMBER 11, 2002**  
**11:00**  
**BOWIE VETERANS PARK**

(Refreshments Served at Post 66  
immediately following ceremony)